



# DEVELOPING & ENHANCING YOUR INTERVIEW SKILLS AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE NATIONAL AMERICAN MISS PAGEANT

Your participation in this year's event is the first step toward a lifetime of growing confidence and success.

No matter your age, the life skills you develop from this program will always benefit you and give that added edge in any field, from modeling to business.

It is often stated that, "Since the beginning of time, each and every day, we are all judged by the way we present ourselves." This familiar quote is actually true.

Your ability to successfully present yourself affects your performance at school, your friendships, and the opportunities that you will have each and every day of your life.

**The ability to communicate well, as well as to express ourselves effectively, is available to everyone.** It is a learned skill that **anyone can master** with a little bit of effort and practice.

One of the ways that can help you skyrocket to success is the Interview Competition. This is a required element in which all contestants participate and is 30% of your overall score.

**An interview is actually just a conversation** in which the interviewer is getting to know you: observing your communication skills, and depending on the setting, learning more about your goals and interests.



**It's fun and easy!** Just follow these easy steps to success!

1. **View the brief Interview video on our website, [namiss.com](http://namiss.com).** There you'll find the Interview video, as well as a wonderful assortment of videos designed to quickly and personally acquaint you with nearly every aspect of the overall pageant competition, including the optional contests!
2. Read the Interview page in your Magazine #2 Booklet (from your state pageant) that covers the Interview Competition. It is a great overview for you.
3. Have good posture and also maintain a positive **natural** presence through your walk, your speech, and even how you sit. **BE YOURSELF.** Be your best self, be your confident self, be the happy person that you truly are inside. **Let them see your light shine!**
4. Here is a look inside the Interview Room, what you'll be doing, and some great tips:
  - **You'll be visiting with each judge in the Interview Room, in a one-on-one, friendly job interview format.** This is the easiest and most comfortable interview format of all. It is much easier than an interview on stage or an interview with, say, a panel of judges all at once.
  - When you enter the Interview Room, you'll be directed to the first table. You'll take a seat and hand the judge your Official Resume. The information regarding your official resume will be included in your Magazine #3, which will be mailed out later closer to pageant weekend. You will need to complete your resume on paper and bring it to your National Pageant Check-In.
  - When sitting in a chair for your interview, always **position yourself on the front half of the chair only** and keep your back straight.
  - Keep your eyes forward, looking **into the interviewer's eyes.**
  - Start with your hands in your lap. If you wish, you can keep them there.
  - Keep in mind that this is just a light, positive, and lively visit with a nice person who just wants to get to know a little more about you and your ability to communicate. Each judge wants each and every contestant to enjoy the interview experience and to do their absolute best. They are not trying to trick you.
  - **Do not chew gum.**

Magazine #2 can be viewed online at:  
**[namiss.com/mag2](http://namiss.com/mag2)**

- **Avoid bangles, watches, and bracelets**, which you may be tempted to twirl and fiddle with during the interview.
- **Avoid one-word answers.** "Yes." "No." "Kinda." "Blue." One word answers may be accurate, but they do little to help the interviewer get to know you and your interview skills. Try using more expansive sentences with some extra meaning and depth.

For example, when asked what you would like to be when you grow up, your answer might be, "A veterinarian." But a better answer would be one that goes a little further. For example: "I would like to be a veterinarian because I've always liked animals and I really like helping take care of my dog, Maggie. I help feed her each day and I am in charge of her bath. She's crazy at bath time! When I'm old enough, I want to volunteer at the animal shelter." You do not have to go on that long with your answer, but this would be a much better response, especially if delivered with a natural, confident, and sincere smile.

- Speaking of smiles, be sure to **SMILE!** Just like you, the judges want the new national queen to be not only a good communicator who will be able to meet the governor, be in parades, talk with celebrities, etc., but also someone who is naturally friendly.
- The interview's closing will be quick, so **thank the judge with a smile** and perhaps an exit greeting such as, "It was nice to meet you." Then move on to the next interview table to visit with the next judge.

5. **Practice!** Practice at home. Practice with your parent while you are waiting for dinner at a restaurant. Practice with a teacher, or ask your parent about another adult who can help practice interviews with you. A great way to practice is with a human resources person (the one that hires new employees) at your parents' workplace or where your family members do business as customers. **Important:** Show them the Interview page from Magazine #2, as well as the Interview video on our website, so they will understand the format and the focus of interviews at National American Miss.

6. Your goal is not to *memorize* answers, but to learn how to interview. **That way you'll be at your best, having valuable interview skills and confidence, not only for the national pageant, but for the rest of you life.**

Developing your answers to common interview questions is great practice, but again, the goal is not to memorize. Be sure to think about, and practice with, some of these questions that may be asked by the interviewer, depending on your age group (There is a broader list on the Interview page in your Magazine #2.):

- Tell me about why you would like to be selected as our next national queen.
- Tell me about your greatest strength.
- Tell me about an area in your life that you would like to improve.
- What qualities do you look for in a friend?
- Tell me about a person, outside of your family, whom you admire, and why.
- Tell me about your goals.
- What would you like to be (your ambition) when you are older?
- What makes you smile?
- Tell me about a character quality that is meaningful to you, and why it is meaningful to you. (examples: Truthfulness, Loyalty, Dependability, Perseverance, Friendliness, etc.)



Again, congratulations on your participation at the National American Miss National Pageant! Time and time again, each year, contestants and their families tell us that the preparation for, and participation in, the pageant interviews is one of the most rewarding and uplifting experiences. We know it will be for you too!

**ENJOY THIS SPECIAL TIME IN YOUR LIFE AND MAKE THE MOST OF IT!**